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Served: March 27, 2001



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY WASHINGTON, D.C.

Issued by the Department of Transportation on the 22nd day of March, 2001

Essential Air Service at

NORFOLK, NEBRASKA

ALLIANCE and CHADRON, NEBRASKA

OTTUMWA, IOWA

Under 49 U.S.C. 41731 et seq.

Docket OST-2000-8320 - 3

Docket OST-2000-8322 - 3

Docket OST-2000-8323 - 3

ORDER EXTENDING SERVICE OBLIGATION

Summary

By this order, the Department is extending Great Lakes' service obligation at Norfolk, Alliance and Chadron, Nebraska, and Ottumwa, Iowa, for an additional 30 days, through April 16, 2001.

Background

On November 15, 2000, Great Lakes Aviation, Ltd., d/b/a United Expresss (Great Lakes), filed a series of 90-day notices of its intent to suspend its scheduled air service at the above communities, effective February 13, 2001. By Order 2000-12-8, December 11, 2000, the Department prohibited Great Lakes from suspending service at the communities for an initial 30-day period, through March 15, 2001. That order also requested proposals from carriers interested in providing replacement service. Great Lakes is the only carrier providing scheduled air service at these three communities.

Since we have received no proposals, this case will not be completed before the end of the current 30-day hold-in period. Thus, in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 41734(c), we will extend Great Lakes' service obligation at the aforementioned communities for an additional 30 days, or until replacement serice actually begins, whichever occurs first.

¹ Since April 14th is a Saturday, this hold-in period will end on Monday, April 16th. (See 14 CFR 302.16)

This order is issued under authority assigned in 14 CFR 385.12(k)(5).

ACCORDINGLY,

- 1. The Department requires Great Lakes Aviation, Ltd., d/b/a United Express, to maintain its current level of service at Norfolk, Alliance and Chadron, Nebraska, and Ottumwa, Iowa, through April 16, 2001, or until a carrier capable of providing reliable replacement service actually begins, whichever occurs first;²
- 2. The Department directs Great Lakes to retain all books, records, and other source and summary documents to support subsidy claims for payment and to preserve and maintain such documentation in a manner that readily permits its audit and examination by representatives of the Department. Such documentation shall be retained for seven years or until the Department indicates that the records may be destroyed. Copies of flight logs for aircraft sold or disposed of must be retained. The carrier may forfeit its compensation for any claim that is not supported under the terms of this order;
- 3. Dockets OST-2000-8320, OST-2000-8322 and OST-2000-8323, will remain open until further order of the Department; and
- 4. The Department will serve a copy of this order on the parties listed in the certificates of service of each of the dockets cited in ordering paragraph 3.

Persons entitled to petition the Department for review of this order under the Department's Regulations, 14 CFR 385.50, must file such petitions within ten days after the date of service of this order.

This order will be effective immediately, and the filing of a petition for review shall not preclude its effectiveness.

By:

RANDALL D. BENNETT

Director
Office of Aviation Analysis

(SEAL)

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² In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 41734(c), we will extend Great Lakes' service obligation for successive 30-day periods as necessary until replacement service actually begins.